

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175483

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: TIME, INC. CALLS ON DEPUTY SECRETARY TO PROTEST
GOI CENSORSHIP

1. TIME, INC. PUBLISHER, RALPH DAVIDSON, CALLED ON THE
DEPUTY SECRETARY JULY 24 TO PROTEST GOI CENSORSHIP OF
TIME MAGAZINE. KUX AND NACH OF NEA/INS ALSO ATTENDED.

2. DAVIDSON SAID TIME EDITIONS FOR JULY 7, 14, AND 21
HAD BEEN BANNED BY INDIAN AUTHORITIES, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE
OF REPORTAGE ON EMERGENCY. GOI HAS TOLD TIME THAT THE
MAGAZINE MAY AGAIN ENTER INDIA AS LONG AS INDIANS CAN
CENSOR IT IN HONG KONG WHERE THE TIME FAR EAST EDITION IS
PRINTED AND TIME WOULD TEAR OUT BANNED PAGES. TIME
REFUSED. ALTHOUGH CENSORS IN TAIWAN AND KOREA SOMETIMES
ORDER PAGES TORN OUT OF THE MAGAZINE, THIS IS ALWAYS DONE
IN-COUNTRY AND NEVER BY TIME ITSELF.

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3. DAVIDSON ALSO ADVISED HE HAD SENT A TELEGRAM TO MRS. GANDHI JULY 21 PROTESTING THE BANNING OF TIME AND ASKING THAT FUTURE ISSUES "BE ALLOWED TO CIRCULATE FREELY AS THEY HAVE BEEN DOING FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS". HE MADE IT CLEAR TO US T'AT TIME CORRESPONDENTS WILL NOT SIGN ANY

GOI CENSORSHIP AGREEMENTS OR PLEDGES. DAVIDSON REFERRED TO A TIME REPORTER (NOT NAMED) STILL IN INDIA AND SAID THAT HE ASSUMED CORRESPONDENT WOULD BE EXPELLED WHEN GOI AUTHORITIES CAUGHT UP WITH HIM.

4. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS FROM DAVIDSON, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OUTLINED THE USG STAND ON CENSORSHIP, EXPLAINING THAT WE HAD PUBLICLY REGRETTED CENSORSHIP AND HAD FORMALLY PROTESTED EACH EXPULSION OF AN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT FROM INDIA. HE SUGGESTED THAT DAVIDSON MEET WITH AMBASSADOR KAUL TO MAKE KNOWN HIS CONCERN ABOUT GOI CENSORSHIP ACTIONS IN PERSON AND SEE IF A WAY COULD BE FOUND TO ALLOW RESUMPTION OF THE MAGAZINE'S DISTRIBUTION IN INDIA. DAVIDSON SAID HE WOULD DO SO. KISSINGER

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